

Remarks

Please cancel claim 1.

In the Amendment After Final Rejection mailed on August 28, 2003, Applicants attempted to cancel claims 3, and 5-15 pursuant to the restriction requirement. To date, it is still not known whether these claims are held to be cancelled or only withdrawn from consideration. However, the Decision on Appeal only addressed Claims 4, and 16-20. Thus it is believed, the only claims now pending are Claim 4 and 16-20. Claim 4 has been amended to delete reference to rejected claim 1 and rewritten into independent form. Support for the amendment is found in Claim 1.

All issues are now resolved. Issuance of a "Notice of Allowance" for claims 4, and 16-20 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis
Corporate Intellectual Property
One Health Plaza, Building 104
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080
(617) 871-3356



Regina Bautista
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 46,280

Date: September 20, 2005